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LANTERN CONTAINER

Frank D. Politano, Bountiful, Utah
(3443 Honeycutt Road, Salt Lake City, Utah)

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This invention relates to containers for conveniently carrying and storing camp lanterns and accessories therefor.

Camp lanterns are most frequently made of metal and glass with fabric mantles that are ignited and a fuel control system to supply fuel and air in desired quantities to the mantles. Because of the rough treatment received by the lanterns during camping operations and during movement to and from camp grounds, the glass is frequently broken, the control system is damaged, and more often the mantles are destroyed. In most instances, it is a tedious operation to tie new mantles in place, and desirably this should be done as infrequently as possible.

It has also proven inconvenient to have accessories, such as a funnel used for filling the lantern fuel reservoir, containers for extra fuel supply, matches, and extra mantles, haphazardly placed among the camping paraphernalia.

The container of the present invention is particularly adapted to rigidly hold a camp lantern of any one of various sizes during carrying or storing thereof, to conveniently hold accessories used therewith, and to provide a firm base stand for the lantern while it is being used for illumination.

Features of the invention that render it particularly useful for carrying and storing camp lanterns are a circularly grooved bottom; accessory storage compartments; a tight fitting telescoping lid having a central hole therein adapted to receive the threaded top post of a lantern and a recessed area surrounding said hole, which recess enables a nut to be easily screwed on or off the top post and to be positioned below the level of the uppermost surface of the lid where it will not be readily damaged and present an obstacle to objects placed on top of the lid.

In one preferred embodiment, a tang on a container lid interconnects with one of a plurality of mated grooves on a container bucket, and the container is provided with a carrying handle. The tang and multiple groove arrangement allows the container to be used for various size camp lanterns, prevents undesired rotation of the lid in addition to precluding possible damage to the lantern from crushing forces applied as other camp gear is stacked on the lid.

There is shown in the accompanying drawings specific embodiments of the invention representing what are presently regarded as the best modes of carrying out the generic concepts in actual practice. From the detailed description of these presently preferred forms of the invention, other more specific objects and features will become apparent.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a vertical axial section of a rectangular cross-section form of the invention with a lantern, shown in elevation, in place therein;

FIG. 2, a top view of the container of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3, a horizontal cross-section taken on line 3—3 of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4, a vertical axial section of another preferred form of container having a circular cross-section;

FIG. 5, a top view of the same container; and

FIG. 6, a horizontal cross-section taken on line 6—6 of FIG. 3.

Referring to the drawings:

In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2, and 3, the container is of rectangular cross-sectional configuration and comprises a bucket **10** and lid **11**.

The base of the bucket is formed with a hole **12** adjacent one side therein and out of the area defined by a central circular groove **13**, which groove is adapted to receive and hold the base of a lantern **14**. The hole **12** serves as a receiver for the reduced end of a funnel and holds it in place.

A plurality of compartments **12'** are formed adjacent to the base and along the opposite side wall of the bucket, and these compartments serve as holders for other non-illustrated accessories, such as fuel containers, mantles, and matches.

The lid **11** telescopes tightly over the bucket **10** and is prevented from rotating by their matching non-circular shapes. Hole **15** passes through the lid **11** and is adapted to surround the threaded top post **16** of the lantern, as shown.

The top surface of the lid is recessed at **17** to a depth sufficient to prevent objects placed on top of the closed lid damaging either the top post or a wing nut **18** threaded on the post and to prevent the top post extending beyond the top surface of the lid where it will form an obstruction to objects stacked thereon. The diameter of recessed area **17** is just slightly larger than the diameter of the lantern base, so that the lantern, when in use, can be placed on the container and be solidly supported within the recess.

Another form of the invention that is readily adaptable for use with a large number of commercially available lanterns is shown in FIGS. 4–6. In this modification, the container, consisting of bucket **19** and lid **20**, has a circular cross-section and the lid telescopes inside the bucket.

A pair of upstanding concentric broken shoulders **21** and **22** are centrally formed on the inside base of the container. These shoulders form receptacles for lantern bases and greatly increase the versatility of the unit since most lanterns having a base too large to fit within the circumference of the inner shoulder **21** will fit over the inner shoulder (made shorter than the outer one), and within the outer shoulder **22**.

To further increase the versatility, a plurality of grooves **23**, **24**, and **25** extending from the top rim of the bucket downwardly various distances are provided, and the telescoping surface of the lid includes a tang **26** adapted to tightly fit and slide in the grooves. The depth of the groove will determine the distance the lid can telescope into the bucket when the tang is aligned with it. The groove depths are chosen to accommodate lanterns of various sizes. The bottoms **27**, **28**, and **29** of the grooves provide abutments against which the bottom **30** of the tang will stop as the lid is telescoped into the bucket. Further pressure on the lid, resulting for example from camp gear stacked thereon, will be transmitted to the bucket through the tang and groove and will not be borne by the rather fragile lantern.

To illustrate the versatility of the container, when a short lantern is placed in the bucket, the tang is aligned with groove **25** and the lid telescoped into the bucket until the bottom of the tang contacts bottom **29** of groove **25**, as shown. For a tall lantern, tang **26** is aligned with groove **23** and for an intermediate height lantern tang **26** is aligned with groove **24**. In any event, the threaded top post of the lantern protrudes through hole **31** in the lid and a wing nut, not shown, is threaded thereon.

The circular cross-sectional construction of the bucket and lid allow the tang to be aligned with any desired groove, and it should be apparent that, if so desired,